



Work and Pensions Committee

04 April 2024

Jo Churchill MP

Minister for Employment
Department for Work and Pensions
(By e-mail only)

Dear Jo,

Below Average Resources: Developing a new poverty measure

The Committee welcomes the current consultation on [Below Average Resources: Developing a new poverty measure](#) and the progress being made on establishing a measure of poverty. The Committee has undertaken various pieces of work in this area during the Parliament, the most relevant of which is our [Children in poverty: Measurements and targets](#) Report. Our report explored how child poverty can most accurately be measured and defined, and how the Department should work with other parts of Government to reduce the numbers of children living in poverty.

As you develop your work in this area and consider the responses to the consultation, we would encourage you to take heed of our recommendations in that Report, which are set out in full at pages 50–55. We published the [Government response](#) received from your Department in December 2021.

We look forward to seeing how the Government's work in this area develops. As is usual practice with the Committee's correspondence, I will be publishing this letter on the Committee's website.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee